

Policy Preamble

The Southwest Area Plan (SWAP) makes general recommendations for land use, development, and community service activities in the Southwest Plan Area. As a greater level of detail is needed in the planning of a specific area of the South Valley, a rank three plan (or sector plan) is the appropriate tool.

The City Council or County Commission adopt Area Plans, such as SWAP, by Resolution. Resolutions and other actions that can be taken by the City Council or County Commission are defined below.

Ordinance - This is the most powerful action a City Council or County Commission can take. It is law enacted through formal procedures. An ordinance usually requires publication in the newspaper and a certain period of time (normally 30 days) before it becomes effective. An ordinance supersedes any motion or resolution in conflict with it no matter when the motion or resolution was made. In the case of zoning ordinance, it must almost always be preceded by at least one advertised public hearing. Zoning has precedence over all planning documents.

Resolution - Certain actions that a City Council or County Commission may take are called "resolutions." Such actions are recorded on a separate piece of paper clearly identified as a "resolution" with a certain number assigned to it. Resolutions are more formal than motions and equally binding. In the case of a conflict between a motion and a resolution, the most recent action prevails, regardless of the form of its adoption.

Motion - City Councils and County Commissions can accomplish certain things by a simple motion approved by a majority vote of the body. Actions by motion are recorded by council or commission minutes. Motions are the weakest action a council can take. Approving an appointment to a city committee is an example of an action taken by motion approved by a majority vote of the body.

Implementation of SWAP Studies, Surveys and Guidelines

Many policies in this plan call for feasibility studies, surveys, assessments, design guidelines, and performance criteria. The Extraterritorial Land Use Commission shall not inherit or act on policy language regarding these aforementioned studies until such time that the appropriate criteria and committees have been established and these studies are completed and formally adopted by the appropriate body.

Studies, surveys, assessments, design guidelines, and performance criteria mentioned in SWAP's policy section shall be prioritized and initiated within two years of the plan's adoption. A checklist will be created in order to track progress on initiating these actions and the County Planning Manager will delegate and direct the work through the appropriate agency. These respective County agencies are responsible for developing criteria and an evaluation process for measuring impacts. As these actions are completed, a two-year review process will be established.